



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/624,542

07/23/2003

Man Chi Li

402725

7495

23548

7590

07/12/2004

LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD
700 THIRTEENTH ST. NW
SUITE 300
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3960

EXAMINER

KLAUS, LISA NHUNG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2832

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/624,542

Applicant(s)

LI, MAN CHI

OK

Examiner

Lisa N. Klaus

Art Unit

2832

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because the element number 50 in figure 2 is different from figure 4. Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The reference character "22" has been used to designate both "upper end" (page 5, line 22) and "contact strips" (page 5, line 23). Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended

Art Unit: 2832

replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rapp et al. (6,573,466).

Rapp discloses an electrical switch comprising:

- a housing 2 having an opening 5;
- a plurality of fixed contacts 4 located in the housing for movement;
- at least one moving contact 3 movable by the switching member (see the attachment) for movement to come into contact with and out of contact from the fixed contacts, and

Art Unit: 2832

- an actuator 9 disposed in the opening 5 for movement to actuate the switching member (see the attachment) and in turn the moving contact, with a gap (see the attachment) formed between the actuator 9 and the opening 5 that surrounds the actuator 9;

- wherein a resiliently deformable seal 11 and 12 is connected across the opening 5 and the actuator 9 to seal off the gap (see the attachment), thereby avoiding entrance of foreign matter through the gap (see the attachment) into the housing 2;

- wherein the seal 11 and 12 has a folded cross-section providing the extended length;

- the seal across section has a U-shaped bend pointing inwards;

- the seal has an intermediate portion (see the attachment) between the opening and the actuator, the portion being folded and having a reduced thickness;

- the seal 11 and 12 comprises a sleeve having opposite ends connected to the opening 5 and the actuator 9 respectively, a first of the ends (see the attachment), being disposed around the corresponding one of the opening and actuator 9;

- the second end (see the attachment), is also disposed around the other of the opening and actuator;

- the first end is stretched around a part forming the opening or of the actuator to which the first end is connected;

- the first end and a part forming the opening or of the actuator to which the first end is connected have complementary cross-sections mated together;

Art Unit: 2832

- the seal comprises an inner part (see the attachment), that is resiliently deformable and an outer part (see the attachment), that is considerably thicker than the inner part and surrounds and protects the actuator;
- the inner and outer parts together have a Z-folded cross-section.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rapp in view of Klein et al. (US 6,626,473).

Regarding claims 11 and 13, Rapp does not disclose a pushbutton switch.

Klein discloses an outer door handle comprising a pushbutton switch 15;

- the outer part 24 is *substantially* cylindrical and contains *substantially* wholly the inner part (see the attachment).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the pushbutton switch as taught by Klein with Rapp's switch for the purpose of opening and closing the circuit, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to choose a different type of switch on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

Art Unit: 2832

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Lisa Nhung Klaus whose telephone number is (571)272-1993, and whose fax number is 703-872-9306. In the event that I am not reached, you can contact my supervisor, Mr. Elvin G. Enad at (571)272-1990 or the tech center receptionist at (703) 308-1782.

Lisa Nhung Klaus

Patent Examiner - Art Unit 2832

June 29, 2004



MICHAEL FRIEDHOFER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

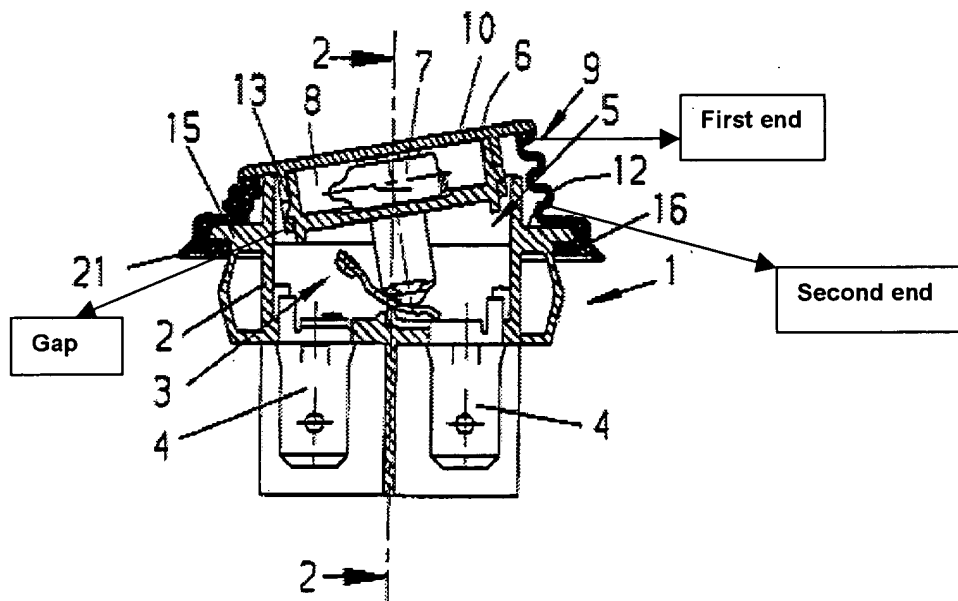


Fig. 1

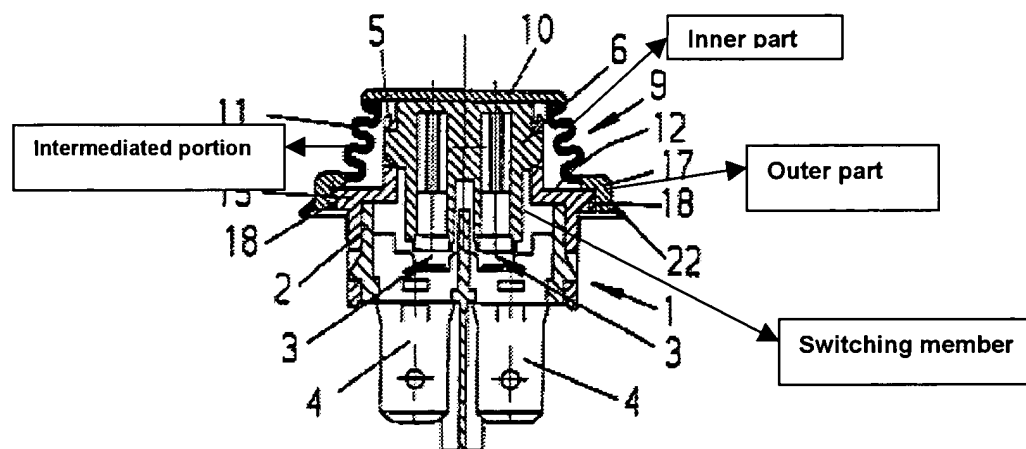


Fig. 4

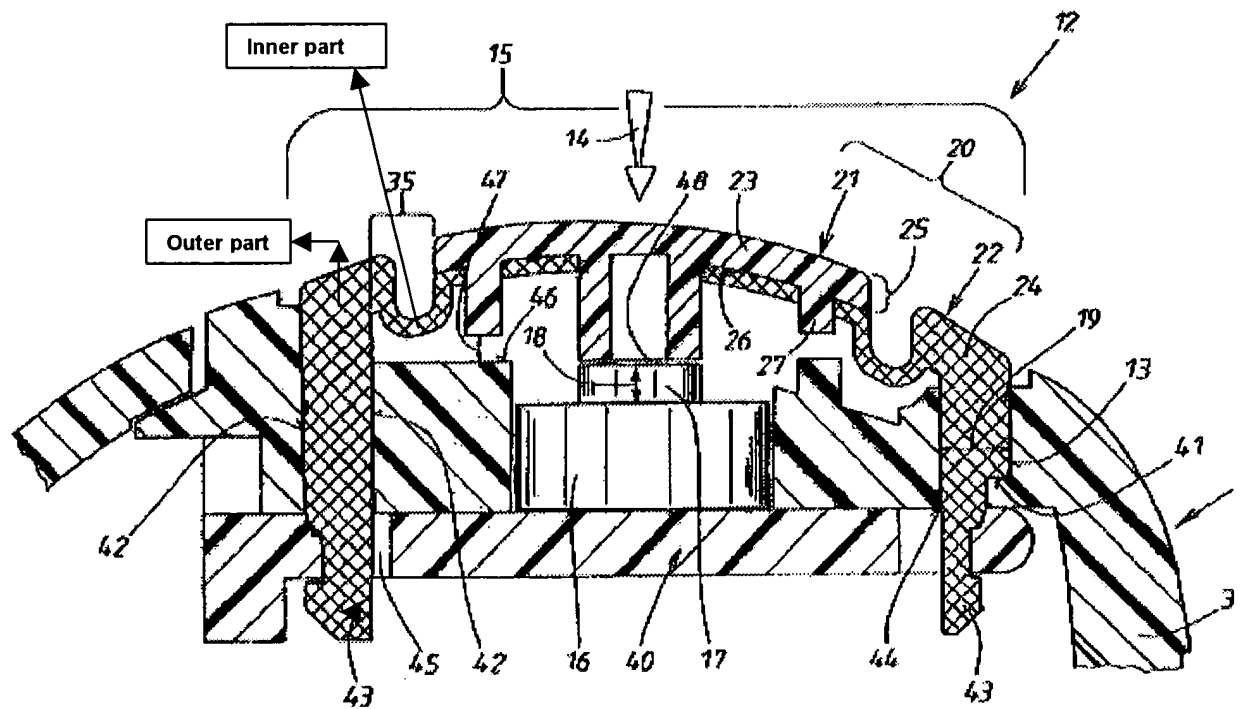


FIG. 2